

September 2004

RAY STREET IMPROVEMENTS DEDICATED

On Saturday, September 11th, I joined Ray Street merchants, community members, and city staff members to dedicate a series of significant streetscape improvements to the Ray Street Arts and Culture District in North Park. The ceremony was immediately followed by the third anniversary celebration of the “Ray at Night” gallery open house, which is held the second Saturday of every month from 6 p.m to 9 p.m.

The community improvements were purchased primarily with \$125,000 in District Three Community Development Block Grant funds which I allocated to the Ray Street project over the past two years. The improvements include 1,700 square feet of new sidewalks, curbs and gutters, 19 flowering street trees (a combination of evergreen pears and crepe myrtles) and a series of color-coordinated enhancements including decorative tree grates and guards, benches, trash receptacles, light poles and planters. Combined, these improvements create a more pedestrian-friendly environment for patrons of this thriving arts community.

The Ray Street Arts & Culture District is located in the heart of North Park, just south of University Avenue and east of 30th Street. The district features a collection of artists, including painters, photographers, sculptors, and an expressive arts institute which showcases work in quaint



storefronts that, combined with the new streetscape improvements, instantly evoke a sense of place with an obvious artistic flair.

Ray Street improvements include new sidewalks, curbs and gutters; benches and trash receptacles; trees, tree grates and tree stands; along with painted light poles.



North Park business owners, community members and city staff joined Deputy Mayor Toni Atkins at the ribbon-cutting ceremony dedicating the Ray Street improvements. Pictured, left to right, are: Brian Ruark, David Troyan, Main Street executive director Jay Turner, Wes Chester, John Stewart McGaughy, Community Economic and Development Department director Hank Cunningham, Ray Street Improvement Project committee members Judith Greer Essex and Gustaf Rooth, Brian Simpson, Craig Bretthauer, Deputy Mayor Toni Atkins, and Curtis Robertson.

The city’s investment in the district is part of a commitment to revitalize older commercial districts in San Diego’s urban core. The improvements to Ray Street came about through a collaboration of business and government. Ray Street business owners worked on the design elements of the new improvements, the major funding came from my office, street trees were provided as part of the Mayor’s Community Forest Initiative, and project coordination was handled by the city’s Community and Economic Development Department.

Everyone seems to be quite pleased with the results of this most recent improvement project for the North Park community. This truly is the product of teamwork, with the business leaders playing a major role in designing the improvements. With hard work from city staff, contractors and the BID Council, we were able to maximize limited funding available to achieve the highest level of enhancements possible.

District News

Below: Deputy Mayor Atkins stopped by the recent Cityfest celebration in Hillcrest to honor the 9/11 Memorial Homeland Security ambulance. The artwork on the ambulance was done by Pete Carolan, a local Navy Seal, who is pictured here with Atkins in front of the vehicle.



Right: Deputy Mayor Atkins recently met with Phil Mangano (second from right), the executive director of the U.S. Interagency Homeless Council, an independent working group that coordinates the activities of 15 federal agencies to improve the delivery of housing and services to homeless individuals and families. Also pictured are City of San Diego Homeless Services Administrator Sharon Johnson, and San Diego Area HUD Office Manager Charles Wilson.



PHOTO GALLERY

Right: Deputy Mayor Atkins was the guest speaker at the recent Gay Games VII fundraiser held by local San Diego athletes at the Museum of the Living Artist in Balboa Park. Pictured with Atkins are members of the event planning committee (l to r) Des Kelly, Brogan Duffy, Eurika Otto and Regina Smalley.



Above: Deputy Mayor Atkins is joined by (L to R) Assemblymember Christine Kehoe, Congressman Bob Filner, Congresswoman Susan Davis, County Supervisor Ron Roberts and Mama's Kitchen Executive Director Alberto Cortes at the recent grand opening of Mama's Pantry, an all-volunteer grocery assistance center for people living with HIV/AIDS located at 4083 30th Street in North Park.

District Three Community/Neighborhood Meetings

(see page 4 for a schedule of Planning Committee, Project Area Committee, and Business Improvement District meetings)

City Heights

Azalea Park Neighborhood Association: Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 2596 Violet Street at 6:30pm.

Cherokee Point Neighborhood Association: Meets the first Monday of the month at 3737 Wightman Street at 6:30pm. Contact: 619-285-1611.

City Heights Community Development Corporation: meets the second Thursday of each month at 6pm at 4283 El Cajon Boulevard.

Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association: Meets the third Thursday of the month at 3850 West Gate Place at 6:30pm. Contact: FairmountPark92105@yahoo.com

Swan Canyon: Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 3120 Euclid Avenue at 6:30 p.m. Contact Becky at rebecca@bairfinancial.com.

Teralta West Neighborhood Alliance: Meets every first and third Thursday of the month at 4286 Marlborough Street at 6:30pm. Contact: 619/281-3551.

Golden Hill

Greater Golden Hill Community Development Corporation (GGHCDC): 2469 Broadway, San Diego, CA 92102, 619/696-9992. Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 6:30pm at the GGHCDC offices.

Kensington

The Kensington/Talmadge Community Association meets every fourth Thursday at the Kensington Community Church, 4773 Marlborough Drive, beginning at 7pm. (dinner for a reasonable price is served prior)

Normal Heights

Normal Heights Cultural Council: Meets the third Thursday of each month from 6:00pm-7:30pm at 4649 Hawley Boulevard.

Normal Heights Community Dinners: Held the third Wednesday of the month (January-October) at 6:30pm at 4649 Hawley Boulevard.

North Park

Altadena Neighborhood Association: Board meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at Santos Coffee at Thorn and 32nd streets. Contact: 619/280-6662

Burlingame Neighborhood Association: Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm at different locations each month. Contact: dbyrne4bna@cox.net.

North Park Community Association: Meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 6 pm at North Park Christian Fellowship Church, 2901 North Park Way.

South Park

The South Park Action Council: Meetings are held bi-weekly on Mondays at 6:00 and last one hour. For information, e-mail Co-Chairs: Samantha Keenan at samkeenan@cox.net or Connie McDonough at conniemcdonough@cox.net.

Talmadge

The Kensington/Talmadge Community Association (see Kensington)
The Talmadge Community Council (TCC) meets every third Tuesday at 4725 Lucille Drive beginning at 6:30pm.

University Heights

The University Heights Community Development Corporation (CDC) meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the CDC office located at 4452 Park Blvd, Suite 104, at 6:30pm.

District Three Happenings ...

As part of my ongoing efforts to keep you up to date on recent and upcoming events, I'm pleased to introduce a new section to our monthly District Three newsletter, "District Three Happenings." This new feature will include information on upcoming ground-breakings and dedications, community cleanups and events, as well as group job, redevelopment project and general construction updates, recently approved or requested traffic engineering decisions, major decisions made by Community Planning Committees, Redevelopment Project Area Committees and Business Improvement Districts, and other items of interest to District Three residents and business owners. We'll continue to expand this section as needed to keep you better informed.

If your neighborhood association or community group has an upcoming event that would be of interest to the general public, please contact George Biagi in my office at 619/236-6527 a month in advance of the event, and we'll include it in this section, space permitting.

Groundbreakings, Dedications, Ribbon-Cuttings, etc:

Balboa Park: On Friday, September 26th, at 12:30pm, a groundbreaking will be held for the Balboa Park West Prado Arcade. The event will take place between the Museum of Man and the Plaza de Panama.

Mid-City: Later this month, there will be a promotional (non-event) groundbreaking for the Mid City Transit Gateways, Phase 2 project to acknowledge the start of construction of the transit enhancements on the bridge decks over I-15 at El Cajon Blvd and University Ave.

Ongoing Redevelopment Projects:

La Boheme in North Park: A new 8" sewer main and 40' sewer lateral were completed on Lincoln Avenue, along with other assorted sewer and roadway maintenance issues associated with this mixed-use project on 30th Street and Ohio Street south of Lincoln Avenue. For a weekly construction update on this project, go to the North Park Main Street home page at www.northparkmainstreet.com, and click on the link for "La Boheme Weekly Construction Report."

Recent Traffic Engineering Decisions:

North Park: An alternative process request has been sent to the City Manager requesting a four-way stop at 29th Street and Palm Avenue. *NOTE: The alternative process is utilized when the local Community Planning Committee disagrees with a decision made by the City of San Diego's Traffic Engineering Department and formerly asks its Councilmember, with the assistance of the Mayor and City Council, to intercede on its behalf.*

Local Planning, PAC and BID Meeting Decisions of Note:

Kensington/Talmadge Planning Committee: On Wednesday, September 8th, the planning committee approved recommendations to improve traffic safety and reduce speeding conditions on the west side of Aldine Drive. These recommendations include installation of a V-Calm sign (which shows passing motorists the speed at which they're traveling), a Guardrail Linear Delineation System, and speed limit signs; reinstallation of chevron alignment signs; turn-warning sign replacement; speed legend installations for all approaches at the intersection of Adams Avenue and Van Dyke Avenue; and an advisory speed change to 15 MPH. Additionally, tree trimming is also planned along the roadway.

UPCOMING DISTRICT THREE STREET FAIRS, PARADES, CONCERTS AND FESTIVALS

Adams Avenue Street Fair

Adams Ave. between Felton and 35th
Saturday, September 25, 10am-9pm
Sunday, September 26, 10am-6pm
Contact: 619/563-0034

AIDS Walk

Balboa Park, Sixth Avenue and Quince Street
Sunday, September 26, 7am-Noon
Contact: 619/291-9255

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

How To Contact Us

Deputy Mayor Toni Atkins
202 C Street, MS #10A
San Diego, CA 92101
Telephone: (619) 236-6633
Fax: (619) 595-1481
Email: ToniAtkins@sandiego.gov
TTY: (619) 533-6586

MONTHLY DISTRICT THREE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Balboa Park Committee

Santa Fe Room of the Balboa Park Club (Off Presidents Way west of Park Blvd.)
Meets the first Thursday of the month, 6:30pm
Contact: Darlene Davies, chair: ddavies@mail.sdsu.edu

City Heights Planning Committee

4310 Landis Street, 2nd Floor
Meets the first Monday of the Month, 6:30pm
Contact: Michael Sprague, Chair, 619/255-7902.

Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee (GGHPC)

Balboa Golf Course Clubhouse, Golden Hill
Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm
Contact: Steven Stratman, Chair, 619/702-6055.

Greater North Park Community Planning Committee

North Park Christian Fellowship, Second Floor, 2901 North Park Way
Meets the third Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm.
Contact: Michael Powers, Chair, 619/280-5184, or email mppvette@cox.net

Kensington/Talmadge Planning Group

Kensington Community Church, 4773 Marlborough Drive
Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm.
Contact: Fred Lindahl, Chair, 619/287-3157.

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

4649 Hawley Boulevard
Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:00pm
Contact: Risa Baron, Chair, 619/284-2505.

Uptown Planners

Joyce Beers Community Center, 1010 University Avenue
Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm
Contact: David Gardner, Chair, 619/835-9501.

MONTHLY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Adams Avenue Business Association

4649 Hawley Boulevard
Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 7:30am
Contact: 619/282-7329

City Heights Business Association

Board meetings: second Tuesday of every month at 8am
at the Indo-Chinese Association, 4536 University Avenue.
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5588, San Diego, CA 92165
Phone: 619/540-4410

El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Asso.

3727 El Cajon Boulevard
Meets the second Thursday of the month, 5:30pm
Contact: 619/283-3608

Hillcrest Association

Joyce Beers Community Center, 1222 Vermont Street in the
Uptown District
Meets the second Tuesday of the month, 5:00pm
Contact: 619/299-3330.

North Park Main Street

3076 University Avenue
Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 7:30am
Contact: 619/294-2501

COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICERS

Rick Castro (City Heights East) -- 619/515-2733
Rick Edgil (Hillcrest) -- 619/299-7028
Gary Gonzales (Golden Hill, South Park) -- 619/744-9500
Ed LaVelle (North Park, University Heights) -- 619/533-5795
Pat Norris (Fairmount Park) -- 619/531-1515
Bill Taitano (Normal Hgts., Kensington/Talmadge) -- 619/531-2383
Jim Tulumello (City Heights West) -- 619/516-3180

MONTHLY REDEVELOPMENT MEETINGS

City Heights Project Area Committee

3795 Fairmount Ave., Weingart Library-Community Room
Meets the second Monday of the month, 6pm
Contact: Al Stasukevich, Chair, 619/285-1611.

North Park Project Area Committee

North Park Community Service Center, 3956 30th St.
Meets the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm
Contact: Roger Lewis, Chair, at 619/881-8977,
or the city staff member at 619/533-5284.

District Three Staff

Jeff Gattas, Chief of Staff

George Biagi, Director of Communications, media, webpage, newsletter, Community Development Block Grant coordinator, LGBT community liaison, HIV/AIDS issues, Chargers, special events, Special Orders of Business/Council proclamations.

Kim Craig, Policy Advisor/Council Representative to Normal Heights, Rules Committee, Metropolitan Transit System, San Diego Data Processing Corporation, infrastructure, docket coordinator, utilities, energy, budget, women's issues.

Stephen Hill, Policy Advisor/Council Representative to Balboa Park and North Park, environment, libraries, arts and culture, Downtown redevelopment, MSCP, Transit Occupancy Tax, water issues, budget.

Cheli Mohamed, Executive Assistant to Deputy Mayor Atkins and the Chief of Staff, office manager, scheduler, volunteer coordinator.

Ryan O'Connor, Council Representative to South Park, Golden Hill and North Park; constituent services liaison, general office constituent services, Policy Board of the Workforce Partnership, homeless issues, and seniors.

Monica Pelaez, Council Representative to Hillcrest, University Heights, Kensington and Talmadge; Police and Fire and Life Safety Services, schools, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, domestic violence, social services, and ADA issues.

Stephen Russell, Policy Advisor/Council Representative to City Heights, redevelopment, Small Business Advisory Board, Development Services, Community and Economic Development, BID Council, SANDAG, housing, budget.